

VOICES OF THE CIVIL WAR

EVIDENCE AND ARTIFACTS

**AN L. TOM PERRY
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
EXHIBITION**

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BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY**

SUMMER 2012 · SPRING 2013



THE DESERT
BY TELEGRAPH AND PONY.
HIGHLY IMPORTANT NEWS FROM
THE STATES.
THE COMMENCEMENT OF
HOSTILITIES.
FORT SUMTER TAKEN BY THE
SOUTHERN TROOPS.
PRESIDENT LINCOLN CALLS FOR 75,000
MILITIA.
AN EXTRA SESSION OF CONGRESS CALLED FOR
THE FOURTH OF JULY.
GREAT EXCITEMENT EVERYWHERE IN
THE STATES.
The Pony Express from the East arrived
on Saturday evening, between ten and eleven
o'clock, with very interesting dispatches from
Charleston and Washington.
The South Carolina Express.

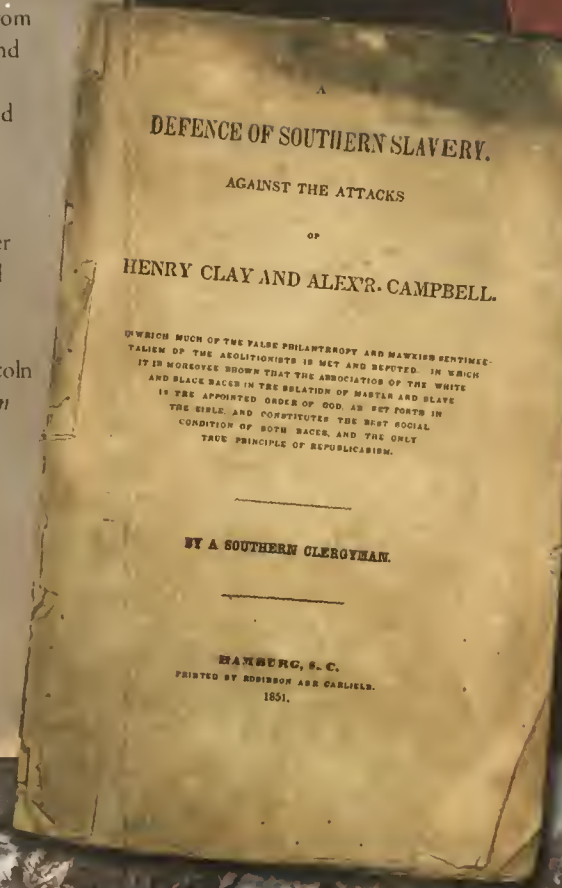


From the 1820s until the outbreak of the Civil War, no segment of the reading public was spared from the arguments and opinions concerning slavery and abolition. In 1851, the voices of abolition found outlet in the influential novel by Harriet Beecher Stowe, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. It appeared first as a serial in the anti-slavery periodical, *The National Era*. When released in book form, it sold 300,000 copies in the United States in its first year.

The effects of the Civil War on the family were long-lasting and permeated many aspects of everyday family life for generations after the fighting stopped. In hundreds of families, brother was indeed pitted against brother and father against son. The divided family was a reality and symbolic of a divided nation.

Rising above the clamor of voices emanating from the Civil War, the voice of Abraham Lincoln is preeminent. In his first inaugural address, he said, *It follows ... that no State upon its own mere motion can lawfully get out of the Union* The Gettysburg Address, of course, is the most poignant of all of his discourses: *Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure.*

The effects of the Civil War are too many to enumerate. Two facts, however, are clear: the Civil War abolished slavery, and the Union was preserved. Suffice it to say that the Civil War continues to intrigue us. It was a turning point in the history of our country: It was a defining moment in our collective consciousness that confirmed that our nation of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.



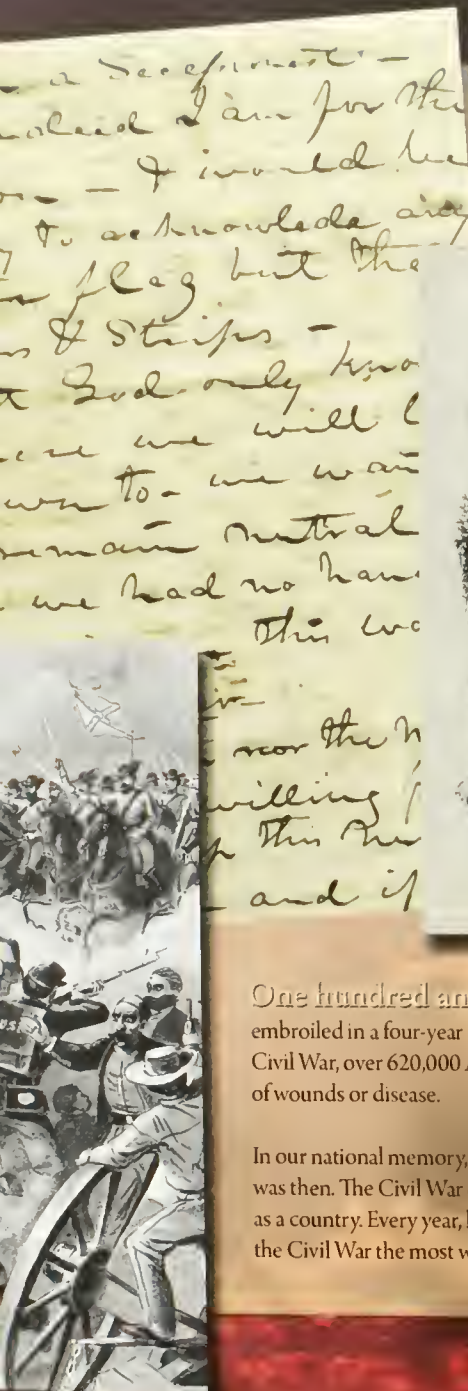
Clockwise from bottom: Rothermel's interpretation of Pickett's 3 July, 1863 charge at the Battle of Gettysburg; Civil War era cannon ball, likely fired by a Union Army Parrot Rifle during the Second Battle of Independence (21 - 22 October, 1864); article from *The Deseret News*, April 24, 1861, announcing the commencement of hostilities; the first *Gone With the Wind* soundtrack album from the original studio recordings, 1967; an 1851 pamphlet by Henson L. Brookes; Confederate flag used in the 1949 film *She Wore A Yellow Ribbon*

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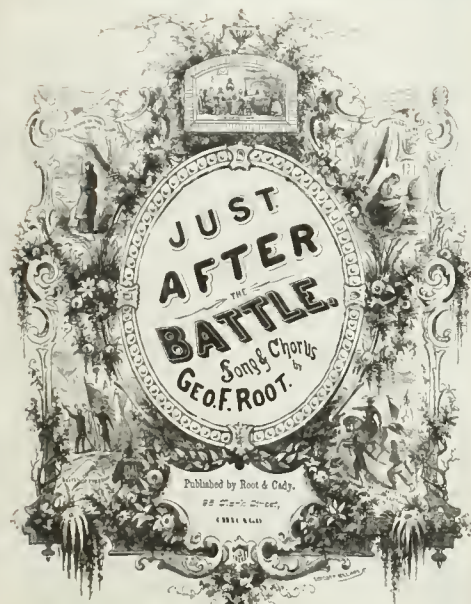
VOICES OF THE CIVIL WAR gives voice to many experiences from this monumental conflict. Those voices teach us about slavery and freedom; about a nation's union and disunion; about families torn apart both by death and by allegiance; and about a country forged by the crucible of war.



For further information and a list of suggested readings about the Civil War, please visit the online portion of this exhibition at <http://www.lib.byn.edu/exhibits/civilwar>



Clockwise from left: letter dated 16 April, 1865, from Sgt. Edward M. Hayhurst to his father Isaac; cover from "Just After the Battle", words and music by George F. Root, published 1863; a glass transparency of the Battle of Bull Run fought on 21 July, 1861.



One hundred and fifty years ago, the American nation was embroiled in a four-year conflict that changed the country. By the end of the Civil War, over 620,000 Americans, more than 2% of the population, had died of wounds or disease.

In our national memory, this devastation remains just as relevant today as it was then. The Civil War defined us as Americans and continues to influence us as a country. Every year, hundreds of books and articles are published, making the Civil War the most written-about event in American history.

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